June 2005

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW BULK STORAGE FACILITY AND DEMOLITION OF THE TANK FARM AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, ALABAMA

The Army proposes to construct a modernized petroleum storage tank facility and demolish the existing storage tank facility at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. This environmental analysis addresses two alternatives, the proposed action and the no-action alternative.

Proposed Action. The proposed action is the modernization of the petroleum bulk storage tank facility at Redstone Arsenal, which consists of the replacement of the antiquated storage tanks with new above ground tanks located at the current installation fuel station. The installation of the new tanks will allow the existing antiquated tanks to be demolished and removed from the old storage facility site. Removal of the tanks will allow the initiation of the RCRA corrective action, which includes the investigation and remediation of the site. The RCRA site characterization to determine the nature and extent of contamination is necessary to determine the extent of remediation activities.

No-Action Alternative. Under the no-action alternative, the modernization of the petroleum bulk storage tank facility at the installation would not occur. The petroleum storage volume for the installation would not be corrected to meet current operations and the existing storage facility would remain with an overcapacity of volume. Fuel handling on the installation would continue using existing antiquated equipment, which is approximately 50 years in age and in need of replacement. The antiquated tanks would remain in use or abandoned in place since the demolition would not occur. The potential for environmental impacts would not be reduced since the modern equipment would not be installed and the existing equipment does not have modern secondary equipment or leak detection systems. The demolition of the antiquate tanks would not occur, therefore, the RCRA corrective action procedures would not be implemented. The no-action alternative would not provide up-to-date fuel handling equipment that would integrate on-going mission activities with laws and regulations. The no-action alternative is not feasible or practical.

Environmental Effects: Eleven broad environmental components or resources were considered to provide a context for understanding the potential effects of the proposed action and to provide a basis for assessing the significance of potential impacts. The areas of environmental consideration were air quality, health and safety, biological resources, cultural resources, hazardous materials and waste, geology and soils, transportation, infrastructure, land use, noise, socioeconomics, and water resources. Cumulative impacts of the proposed action were also analyzed.

No impacts were identified for cultural resource and transportation components. No significant impacts to the other environmental resources were found and anticipated impacts are mitigable. The existing storage tank area will be temporarily stabilized through grading of the site to allow free run-off of surface water and establishment of grasses to minimize transport of soils. The area will be stabilized until the RCRA Corrective Action procedures, including the site characterization and remediation activities, can be initiated. Remediation of the existing site will be conducted through the RCRA Corrective Action process. Any hazardous materials/waste generated from construction and demolition will be identified, removed from the site, and disposed in accordance with current regulations. Secondary containment for stored fuel, oil, lubricants, and other hazardous materials is required. Best management practices will be used to minimize erosion and fugitive dust. Noise producing construction activities will be confined to normal working hours. No significant cumulative impacts were identified for the proposed project.

CONCLUSION

The Environmental Management Division of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW-EM) has prepared an EA that addresses the proposed action and evaluates the environmental impacts of the alternatives considered. Based on the EA for the Installation of a New Bulk Storage Facility and Demolition of the Tank Farm at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, June 2005, there would be no significant environmental impacts associated with this project that would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Should you wish to review the Environmental Assessment for the Installation of a New Bulk Storage Facility and Demolition of the Tank Farm at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, or comment on this action, you may contact Ms. Lira Frye, 256-955-9173, ATTN: IMSE-RED-PA, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, 35898-5000, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, 35898-5000, within thirty days from the date of this publication.